

RECOGNIZING CONGRESSMAN
JOHN LEWIS

HON. JAMES P. McGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and praise Congressman JOHN LEWIS for visiting New Bedford, MA, this past week, to discuss his important involvement with the American Civil Rights Movement, and to remind all of us how we need to find the courage to continue the Movement.

I'd also like to thank Congressman BARNEY FRANK for inviting Congressman LEWIS to speak. The two Congressmen are friends of more than 40 years, and as Congressman FRANK states, Representative LEWIS continues to be "one of the great moral forces in this country."

Representative LEWIS, a great hero of the American Civil Rights Movement, spoke to 1400-plus students and teachers at New Bedford High School, sharing his experiences growing up in the segregated South, and his eventual involvement with nonviolent protests.

Congressman LEWIS told the students "that it was the young, like himself and many others who formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee," who led the way in the Civil Rights Movement.

I would like to place into the RECORD the following editorial, Timely Message from John Lewis, which appeared in the June 1, 2006, edition of the New Bedford Standard-Times.

[From the New Bedford Times, June 1, 2006]

TIMELY MESSAGE FROM JOHN LEWIS

Whether it was the hand of the almighty or simply the good sense of our local congressman, Barney Frank, yesterday's visit to New Bedford by U.S. Rep. John Lewis, D-Ga., one of the great heroes of the American Civil Rights Movement, could not have been timed more perfectly.

The 56-year-old Rep. Lewis, who is the son of a sharecropper born in segregated Alabama, brought a message of hope and healing to a city preparing to bury Bernadette DePina, who was shot to death in her home last week, just day's after her 23-year-old son David DePina II's arrest on charges of murdering a 29-year-old man.

Rep. Lewis didn't talk about crime or punishment or politics. He talked about growing up poor in the segregated South, about being inspired as a 15-year-old listening to the radio by the actions of the late Rosa Parks and the soaring words of a young black minister, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., to stand up for the dignity of all and "to find a way to get in the way" of those who would deny others that dignity.

And that's what he did. Arrested scores of times in nonviolent protest of discriminatory voting practices, segregated schools, lunch counters and public transportation, he was threatened, beaten, spit upon and hated by Southern whites trying to maintain the legalized segregation of the Jim Crow south. He has faced trouble, counted losses and continued his fight as what Congressman Frank—his friend for more than 40 years—calls "one of the great moral forces in this country."

"I am not bitter today, and I am not going to be bitter tomorrow," Rep. Lewis said.

And then he said something important to the community of New Bedford, which some fear has split along racial, ethnic, neighborhood and economic fault lines.

"We are one people," he said in the soaring voice of the preacher he grew up wanting to be, with the same simple conviction that powered Dr. King. "We all need each other. We all live in the same house."

He cautioned 1,400 sophomores and juniors at New Bedford High School not to grow bitter but to become involved in their own mission to make things better for all. He urged the students to register to vote and to vote when they turn 18, a privilege he marched for four decades ago.

The congressman told the students that it was the young, like himself and many others who formed the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee, who led the way in the Civil Rights Movement.

"And it will be the children in New Bedford who will say, 'We're going to live in peace because we are all brothers and sisters.'"

His words inspired a standing ovation in the packed high school hall. They stirred the imagination of Stephanie Houtman, 15, a sophomore. "He was talking about how they burned his back with cigarettes," Yet he did not relent. He did not stir from the segregated lunch counter.

Dominick Baptiste, 16, walked out of the auditorium with a broad smile on his face at the end of the speech. "It made me feel good to know that people can fight racism," he said. "The fact that he was able to find the courage to sit at the white table. The fact that he was able to go back again and again."

The congressman's visit reminded the city of what we all know.

What happens to a family on Ash Street or at Monte Park or the United Front or County Street happens to all of us. An unless we let our own bitterness go, unless we reach across the way to our neighbor, we will never be what we want to be, what we should be.

It ought not take a visit by a congressman from Georgia to remind us of that. Deep down, we all know it. Having the courage to do something about it is the real test.

THE BURNING OF AFGHAN
SCHOOLS

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my deep concern about reports that schools in Afghanistan continue to be destroyed. I recently met with Dr. Sima Samar, chair of the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission, who reported to me that since 2005, dozens of schools have been burned. Dr. Samar works courageously every day, under threat of personal attack, to ensure that the rights of Afghan citizens, including women and children, are protected. I strongly agree with her that to truly be empowered, Afghan women and girls must be educated.

I urge the U.S. State Department to take immediate action to ensure that Afghan children and women can be educated without fear of violence. This is truly vital to the future of Afghanistan. Although the lives of some women are improving, for far too many, the situation has remained the same. They continue to endure hardships including targeted violence, limited mobility, illiteracy, and a high rate of maternal mortality. By giving women access to the skills and opportunities that they need to become partners in creating Afghanistan's future, we will ensure that women will no longer

be second-class citizens. We cannot afford to wait.

HONORING THE LIFE OF AMY
BRYANT KIRKPATRICK

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute, on the anniversary of her passing, to Amy Bryant Kirkpatrick of Granbury, Texas. Mrs. Kirkpatrick passed away June 6, 2005 after a long and fierce battle with cancer at the age of 27.

Mrs. Kirkpatrick was born April 20, 1978 in Denton, Texas to parents Donald and Becky Bryant of Valley View, Texas. She was raised in Valley View and graduated from Valley View High School in 1996. Amy was the spiritual and kinetic center of her family, and was always a beam of light for her family to center around. As a devoted daughter, Amy served her parents as a shining example of caring upbringing through her awards and accolades and most importantly her character. She also served as an inspiring and loving sister to her brother Dustin Bryant. Through thick and thin, Amy always let her character and love for her family guide her through life and this outlook would lead her through struggles later on.

Amy's contagious character and spirit was a draw for many, and it is no doubt that this led to her to the destiny of meeting the love of her life. She met and later married Lance Kirkpatrick of Burleson, Texas on May 23, 1998. They shared a love that stayed true to the vows made at their wedding. Through sickness and in health, for richer and poorer, till death do them part, Lance and Amy personified these vows in the seven years of their marriage.

Answering the call of the passion in her life, Amy sought in her studies a chance to help others, particularly children. After graduating from Tarleton State University in 2000, Amy taught special education for Granbury ISD in Granbury, Texas. She chose to teach students with emotional and behavioral disorders, as it was up to her to guide these children who many had neglected. She saw in them what many others chose to look past, and that was hope. Through her sickness, Amy would only miss a day a week during her chemotherapy treatments to be away from her students. She did instill stability as well as earn the trust of these previously ignored children. During her second year of teaching, the Masonic Lodge of Granbury honored Amy as the Outstanding Teacher of Granbury ISD. In 2005, Amy was once again honored as Outstanding Teacher of the Year by Wal-Mart. The recognition of these awards truly highlights the dedication and devotion that Amy had toward disadvantaged students. She has made a long and lasting impact on many children she taught, as well as her colleagues. Beyond her awards and recognition, Amy will be remembered as a teacher who cared about her students when society was not as compassionate.

Fulfilling her life's dream, Amy gave birth to a precious daughter, Hannah Grace on December 19, 2003. As a child she was told she would never have, Hannah was truly the calm

in Amy's storm. Her legacy will live on through this child she fought so hard to give birth to. We will all bear witness to the traits that Amy has passed onto Hannah, and it will be the duty of many to see the love and sacrifice that Amy gave will not be unknown to her daughter.

As a daughter, sister, wife, and mother, Amy's memory and life will be in the reflection of many who knew her, as she touched so many around her. Her motto through out her sickness was "I have cancer, cancer does not have me."

In closing, I would like to leave you with a quote by President John F. Kennedy which reads, "The courage of life is often a less dramatic spectacle than the courage of a final moment; but it is no less a magnificent mixture of triumph and tragedy." We will all miss Amy's presence but never forget her life.

ON THE 62ND ANNIVERSARY OF
D-DAY

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I pause today to remember the men, our brave veterans from the Greatest Generation, many who gave their lives on June 6, 1944 to begin the liberation of Europe.

Sadly, fewer and fewer of these brave men are left with us who were actually there on June 6, 1944, when Supreme Allied Commander General Dwight D. Eisenhower gave the go-ahead for the largest amphibious military operation in history: D-Day, code-named Operation Overlord, the Allied invasion of northern France. Unfortunately, we are saying goodbye to these veterans in greater numbers with each passing year. But for those who remain with us and in memory of those who died that day and who have subsequently passed since, we pause today to honor their great deed.

At 6:30 a.m. on June 6, 1944, our brave American troops came ashore at Utah and Omaha beaches. On Omaha Beach, the U.S. First Division battled heavy German fire and rough waters and many wounded Americans ultimately drowned in the high tide. Our British and Canadian brothers landed at Gold, Sword beaches, and Juno beaches, and also were met with heavy German fire, but by day's end had established beachheads.

Total Allied casualties on D-Day are estimated at over 10,000. The breakdown of United States casualties was 1,465 killed, 3,184 wounded, 1,928 missing and 26 captured. Before the day ended however, 155,000 Allied troops would be in Normandy, bringing with them the beginning of the end of the Third Reich. The world has not forgotten what these men did on June 6, 1944, and we must remain vigilant in making sure we never forget their great sacrifice.

IN HONOR OF BRIAN L. GOTTLIEB

HON. ANTHONY D. WEINER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 6, 2006

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of long time community activist, Brian L. Gottlieb, upon his completion of service as Chairman of Community Board 13 in Brooklyn. Brian L. Gottlieb has proven himself to be a tireless fighter on behalf of his neighbors and our community.

While Brian's service to Community Board 13 started long before his appointment as chairman, serving as a member of the Board's Youth Services, Education & Library, and Housing, Zoning & Land Use committees, he never limited his community activism to just one organization. Brian L. Gottlieb founded Shorefront Toys for Tots, to distribute toys to needy children during the holiday season, served as a member of the Community School Board for District 21, and as President of the Brighton-Atlantic Unit 1671 of B'nai B'rith helped that unit expand their outreach effort to other religious, ethnic and civic groups.

Brian L. Gottlieb was taught civic responsibility by example, and I am sure his mother Myrna, of blessed memory, would be proud of his accomplishments, which include being honored by many of the organizations he has served or supported as well as being a practicing attorney.

Therefore, on behalf of the United States House of Representatives, I congratulate Brian L. Gottlieb upon the completion of his service as Chairman of Community Board 13 in Brooklyn and thank him for his many years of hard work on behalf of my constituents and the City of New York.

PALESTINIAN ANTI-TERRORISM
ACT OF 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, May 22, 2006

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it is with mixed feelings that I rise in support of this legislation. I support this bill because it is vital that the House stand in opposition to governments that pursue their objectives by spreading terror. Supporting such a government is fundamentally at odds with the values that make our nation great. At the same time, we must find ways to maintain humanitarian assistance and avoid a spiral into human suffering in the Palestinian territories.

This legislation attempts to navigate that narrow course between providing assistance to the Palestinian people and rejecting the hatred that embodies Hamas. It is not an easy balancing act, but this bill does a good enough job to merit passage today.

The United States is the single largest financial supporter of the Palestinian people. We provide \$245 million per year in humanitarian assistance to the Palestinians. And let me be clear: That support for the Palestinian people

can and should continue. But we can do that—and should do that—without supporting the Hamas-led Palestinian Authority. This legislation does create an important exception that allows funds to go to the PA if they are dedicated to promoting democracy and human rights efforts. It also affords the president some flexibility to continue the flow of this assistance should he judge it to be in our national security interest. While I have real reservations about entrusting the current president with this authority, I nonetheless appreciate the importance of this provision.

At the same time, I have several concerns about H.R. 4681, and believe that some modifications are needed before this legislation can become law. First, I am concerned that the bill does not account for future changes in the policies of the Palestinian Authority—whether it is Hamas or Fatah or someone else. For instance, should Hamas decide to become a responsible partner in the Middle East peace process—an unlikely prospect to be sure—or should a new government take its place, there is nothing in this legislation that would allow us to restart aid or lift the restrictions placed on them by this bill. With that in mind, I believe this bill should have included a sunset provision allowing Congress and the White House the chance to review in a year or two the impact that this legislation has on the PA and on the Palestinian people.

While I do not foresee Hamas renouncing terror, recognizing Israel's right to exist, or accepting the Road Map as the basis for future progress in the Middle East, I do believe that Fatah and other parties may yet have the chance to govern the Palestinian Authority. Almost 15 years after the Oslo accords were signed, accepting these basic principles should not require extraordinary policy shifts. Indeed, support for these measures should be a basic view of any political party seeking to run the Palestinian Authority.

The legislation before us today also could be strengthened by reducing some of the onerous reporting requirements that well-known non-governmental organizations will face if they are to continue to provide direct humanitarian assistance to the Palestinian people. I fear that we are unduly burdening organizations like Catholic Relief Services, whose record of providing social services to individuals in need without regard to politics or ideology is exemplary.

This bill also has some provisions that are either redundant or run counter to the goals of the bill. For example, there is no need to prohibit PA government leaders from receiving U.S. visas, since Hamas members already are unable to receive a visa. Further, limiting the ability of non-Hamas government officials to travel to the United States could actually hamper the ability of our government to meet, advise or otherwise support non-Hamas members of the PA.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, it is my very strong hope that as this bill moves through the legislative process, the provisions that allow the Secretary of State to withhold our UN dues in certain cases will be dropped. This section is neither warranted nor wise.

And so there is room for improvement in this legislation. But the intent of this legislation